

Mayor's Council on Disability
Chattanooga, Tennessee
Meeting Minutes
April 5, 2010

Chairperson, John Jackson, Creative Initiative
Vice Chair, Bryon Kluesner, UTC OSD Office
Secretary, Carol Martin, UTK Center on Disability & Employment
Parliamentarian, Jill Hindman, Dev Disability Council, Region 3*

Council Members

Sandra Booher, Moccasin Bend Hospital*

Jim Queen, CARTA Care-A-Van

Tommy Gates, Siskin Hospital for Physical Rehabilitation

Carolyn Boyd, Signal Centers

Phillip Stevens, City of Chattanooga

Karl Epperson*

Katye Jones, Merrill Lynch (Special Needs)*

*Last meeting as MCD members. New members will be nominated in May

Mayor's Office Participants

Matt Lea, Assistant to Mayor

Jay Piercy, OMA City Compliance Officer

Kathie Fulgham, Mayor's Office

Absent members:

Karl Epperson

Carolyn Boyd

(Medical Leave)

Visitors:

Chris Jackson, TN DIDS

Dennis Dodson, Mental Health Advocate

Elaine Adams, City Therapeutic Recreation

Danielle Hooper, CABIA

April Taylor, Moccasin Bend

Bea Lyons, Hearing Loss Assoc.

Cheryl Haynes, former Spec Ed Teacher

Constance Ruff, Pres, Southside Council

John Jackson welcomed the group and asked the Council members to introduce themselves. Carol Martin asked if there were any changes to the minutes. With only grammatical and spelling changes, the minutes, as corrected, were approved.

Bryon Kluesner, UTC Office for Students with Disabilities, discussed the fundraising activities that are going on to help subsidize the costs of the upcoming trip to Ireland, England, Scotland and North Wales. He said the group had considered going to Italy and Greece next year but with the current financial situation in Greece they are looking into the Scandinavian countries. Council members or others in the community are welcome to join the group. E-mail Bryon at Bryon-Kluesner@utc.edu.

Dennis Dodson mentioned that he is working on producing T-shirts with anti-stigma messages, such as "Disabled or Differently Abled." He said that the cost can get as low as \$8 per shirt with a large enough quantity. He also mentioned the Dayton, TN Stigma Stomp had about 40 people walk down the street with a hollowed out bowling ball around their ankle (like the old chain gangs) to demonstrate the stigma of mental illness. This Stigma Stomp is sponsored by the TN Mental Health Consumers Association and NAMI. Dennis believes that any of the mental health anti-stigma campaigns can be used for any disability or all disabilities.

Katye Jones introduced her nominee for MCD, Cheryl Hanes, who was a special education teacher for 34 years. Cheryl's name will be included in the list of names to be considered for membership in the MCD.

Jill Hindman said that she is looking for committed people to serve on the Developmental Disabilities Council Sub Committee that she chairs. This group meets quarterly. Send a resume and letter of interest to Jill at jhindman312@aol.com Jill noted that Dr. Kristin Compton, Dentist at Orange Grove, has agreed to serve on this committee.

Jill is also on the chair of the fundraising committee for the Connections Conference. This is a conference for parents of kids with special needs, a two day conference at First Centenary Church downtown. Activities for the kids and their siblings will be included. Jill asks to let her know of any recommendations for contributions.

Jim Queen said the test with STS and Care-A-Van went better than expected and CARTA and SETHRA vehicles will be involved in the next test. CARTA cannot carry the TennCare clients from STS or otherwise they would have had more trips than they had on this test. All of this collaboration leads up to getting the Transit Center opened. There will be a Call Center that helps to organize the process.

Jim also mentioned that a long time Care-A-Van driver recently retired, the first full time employee, Paul Rouse, to retire after 20 years. According to Jim, Paul will be hard to replace. He is now a Care-A-Van client

Matt Lea said that he received invitations from Orange Grove to attend their upcoming breakfast. All of the MCD members are invited.

Prior to the meeting, Matt sent the Council Members a list of potential new members. He said that he was also aware of the nomination from Katie and from Bryon, but they are not included on his list. Matt said he believes there are six vacancies. He said that the Nominating Committee will be meeting and preparing a slate of nominees for the May meeting. Matt announced that the first Go!Fest planning meeting was held last week. Karl Epperson, Tommy Gates, Jim Queen and Bea Lyons were in attendance. He encouraged MCD members to participate in the planning and said he is planning for some extra events this year. Some of the new exhibits include an army helicopter and a cannon from the marines. He is also trying to get a Civil War re-enactment. Any other ideas for activities will be welcomed.

Carol Martin told Matt that Terri Rice has withdrawn her name for consideration on the Council due to the time required on her new job.

Matt said that he would like to see Elaine Adams as a permanent staff appointment on the Council. The Council agreed to this in a unanimous vote.

Matt said that he had secured some great ADA handouts and he suggested that MCD has a table at Go!Fest with a banner saying, "Happy 20th Anniversary to the ADA!"

Matt also mentioned that Philip had been talking to the Special Education Teacher's Association who are planning a conference in Chattanooga next year in October to coincide with Go!Fest. There should be 300 to 400 teachers from all over the U.S. in attendance. They are hoping to take Go!Fest back to their cities.

Jay Piercey announced that the ADA Community Resource Directories are now available. There will also be copies in Spanish. E-mail Jay if you would like to have a copy. His e-mail address is piercy_j@mail.chattanooga.gov. Jay also announced that the Fair Housing Luncheon will be held Tuesday, April 13th at the Chattanooga Choo Choo. Registration starts at 8:00 a.m. with two seminars in the morning and the luncheon at 11:30. If you would like to attend, you must pre-register by April 6th. Call the OMA office.

Elaine Adams announced that the Therapeutic Recreation Office is having a prom on April 9th and all MCD members are welcome to attend. Two programs that are coming back include golf and the climbing program. And both of these programs are already full. The cycling program will start back up at the end of the month. And, she said that there will be three weeks of camp available this summer. The one for ages 6 to 12 is already full but there will be an adult camp and a teenage camp that still have some spaces open. Elaine said that the Meet-Up Group, called Sky Mergers have already had one meet-up. The group now has 15 members and the group is working on being self sufficient. It is driven by members. She also

talked about the Community Explorer Group, a result of a collaboration of eight different agencies. According to Elaine, this program has really taken off.

Bea Lyons mentioned the Walk4Hearing that is taking place on May 15th at Chattanooga State. Registration is at 9:00 a.m. and the walk starts at 10:00. Mayor Littlefield will be present for the ribbon cutting. Bea encouraged agencies to participate and to keep 35% of the money that they earn. See www.walk4hearing.org

Danielle Hooper, Chattanooga Area Brain Injury Association, announced that this organization is having its 11th Annual Awards Dinner on April 30th at 6:00 pm at the North River Civic Center in Hixson. She said she is willing to accept some last minute nominations for Caregiver Award or Community Service Award. The awards are for those they care for people with brain injuries or for an organization that serves people with brain injuries.

Greg Smith, Hamilton County Emergency Management Planner, discussed the functional needs annex to better care for and plan the needs of the community. The annex was activated the latter part of March when there was a house fire at a local group home for cognitively impaired adults. They were able to bring together the groups and respond effectively. Although the fire affected only 8 people, it worked well on this small scale and will hopefully work just as well on a large scale if it is ever necessary.

The next meeting will be May 3rd at 3:00 p.m. at the DRC.

Minutes respectfully submitted,
Carol Martin, Secretary
Mayor's Council on Disability